

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/579,247 Confirmation No. : 6398
First Named Inventor : Etienne Duguet
Filed : March 20, 2007
TC/A.U. : 1793
Examiner : Joseph Micali

Docket No. : 104014.B130137
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Unsymmetrical Inorganic Particles, and Method for Producing the Same

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In complete response to the Office Action dated February 2, 2010, Applicants submit the following response. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement between two groups of claims as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-7, drawn to a nanoscale or mesoscopic particles comprised of an inorganic material.

Group II: Claims 8-26, drawn to a method of preparing nanoscale or mesoscopic particles comprised of an inorganic material.

Applicants respectfully assert that the inventions of Groups I and II can be examined together. Applicants respectfully submit that the inventions of Groups I and II are related and Applicants respectfully submit that a proper search of the claims of one Group can include a proper search of the claims of the other Group. Thus, Applicants submit that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously.

Applicants submit that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search accordingly to determine the art relevant to Applicants' overall invention is significantly outweighed by the public's interest in not having to obtain and study separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicants' invention. The